

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5920

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU

AMCONSUL AUCKLAND BY POUCH

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

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SUBJECT: SRV VICE FONMIN PHAN HIEN'S VISIT TO NEW

- ZEALAND: JULY 18 PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 174899 (NOTAL)

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FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE
GIVEN BY VICE FOREIGN MINISTER OF VIETNAM, PHAN HIEN,
SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN WELLINGTON JULY 18, 1978.
(FYI: VIETNAMESE TRANSLATION AT PRESS CONFERENCE IS
DESCRIBED BY MFA AS "ROUGH." EMBASSY WILL ENDEAVOR TO
HAVE TRANSLATION CHECKED AND WILL ADVISE OF ANY SUB-
STANTIVE CHANGES. END FYI.)

OPENING STATEMENT BY PHAN HIEN:

THIS TIME I VISIT JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND ON THE WAY I STOPPED OVER IN SINGAPORE AND THAILAND. ON MY WAY BACK TO THAILAND AND THEN TO VIET NAM AND BACK TO HANOI. SO AFTER THIS VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND I WILL VISIT THREE MORE COUNTRIES; THIS VISIT IS SHORT. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THIS VISIT IS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH THE LEADERS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE COUNTRIES I HAVE VISITED ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL CONCERN, AND ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. SO FAR MY VISIT TO JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, THAILAND AND SINGAPORE HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL. I HAVE SEEN THE PRIME MINISTERS OF JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, AND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, SINGAPORE AND THAILAND.

IN GENERAL THERE HAS BEEN A COMMON DESIRE BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THOSE COUNTRIES IN STRENGTHENING AND BROADENING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THOSE COUNTRIES, IN THE INTERESTS OF VIETNAM AND OF THOSE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH EAST ASIA. WE ARE VERY GLAD TO HAVE COME TO NEW ZEALAND TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE NEW ZEALAND FRIENDS AND MINISTERS IN NEW ZEALAND. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU TO CONVEY THE GREETINGS OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND. I HOPE THAT THIS VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND

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WILL OPEN A NEW ERA IN THE RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION ON A LASTING BASIS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND NEW ZEALAND. I WILL VISIT SOME PLACES IN YOUR COUNTRY AND MEET LEADERS OF YOUR COUNTRY. I THINK AFTER THAT I WILL HAVE ANOTHER MEETING WITH YOU TO TALK ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THIS VISIT.

QUESTION: MR. MINISTER COULD WE ASK YOU ABOUT SOME OF THE THINGS YOU ARE HOPING TO ACHIEVE WHILE YOU ARE HERE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, LANGUAGE TRAINING, THE POSSIBILITY OF FOODSTUFFS AND DEVELOPMENT AID. COULD YOU SAY WHAT NEW ZEALAND COULD EXPECT TO GET IN RETURN FROM VIETNAM IF THESE AIMS WERE ACHIEVED?

ANSWER: WE HOPE THAT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND NEW ZEALAND WILL DEVELOP A GOOD RELATIONSHIP, GOOD ECONOMIC RELATIONS, EXCHANGES OF EXPERIENCE AND SO ON. THERE HAVE BEEN MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AS FAR AS HISTORICAL OR ETHNIC AND CULTURAL MATTERS ARE CONCERNED. WE ARE PREPARED TO DEVELOP THE RELATIONS OR TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES

AND EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SO THAT WE CAN HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER. SO, BETTER UNDERSTANDING ON HISTORY, ON PEOPLE, ON THE COUNTRY, ON THE CULTURE OF EACH COUNTRY. OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE CLOSE TO EACH OTHER AND WE MUST HAVE A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER. WE ARE BOTH IN THE SAME SITUATION. IN THE FUTURE WE WILL HAVE TRADE RELATIONS WITH EACH OTHER. AND PERHAPS RELATIONS, OR COOPERATION IN THE PROCESS IN YOUR PRODUCTS. FOR INSTANCE, YOU HAVE WOOL AND WE CAN MAKE WOOL CARPETS

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OUT OF YOUR WOOL. THAT IS THE COOPERATION. SO FAR THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN GIVING US SOME AID AND WE HOPE THIS AID WILL BE CONTINUED.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO THE CONCERN FELT HERE RE-

GARDING THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES LEAVING VIETNAM?

A: AS YOU KNOW AFTER THE END OF THE WAR IN VIETNAM THERE WERE ALMOST A MILLION UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE IN VIETNAM,
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INCLUDING ONE MILLION SOLDIERS OF THE FORMER REGIME, PROSTITUTES, DRUG ADDICTS, AND SO ON. APART FROM THAT, AFTER THE END OF THE 4-DAY WAR (?) A NUMBER OF THE PEOPLE WERE ENGAGED IN BLACK MARKETING, IMPORTING, SPECULATION, AND CAUSING CHAOS IN THE MARKET. TUR JOB IS TO SEEK MORE JOBS FOR THESE PEOPLE TO PREVENT THE BLACKMARKETING, SPECULATION, IMPORTING, AND TO STABILISE THE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY. TO PROVIDE FOOD, HOUSING, AND JOBS FOR EVERYBODY. THESE PEOPLE WERE USED TO THE OLD WAY OF LIFE. THEY ARE NOT ACCUSTOMED TO THE NEW WAY OF LIFE IN THE COUNTRY AND THEY COULDN'T OR DIDN'T ABANDON THE OLD WAY OF LIFE. BECAUSE OF THEMSELVES OR BECAUSE OF EXTERNAL INSTIGATION THEY HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY. SO THEY HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY IN SEARCH OF WHAT THEY HAVE LOST. WE HAVE BEEN CARRYING OUT EDUCATION AND PERSUASION BUT ITS UP TO THEM TO DECIDE. WE CAN'T DEPLOY THE WHOLE OF OUR NAVAL FORCES TO BLOCK THE WAY OUT, TO BLOCK THE COAST. AND WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH NAVAL FORCES TO CARRY OUT SEARCH OF VESSELS. SO ITS UP TO THEM TO GO AWAY. BUT FROM EXPERIENCES WE BELIEVE, FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF THE WAR AGAINST THE FRENCH, WE BELIEVE THAT SOONER OR LATER THESE PEOPLE WILL THINK ABOUT THEIR COUNTRY AND TIME WILL MAKE THEM THINK BACK AND MAKE THEM THINK ABOUT THEIR COUNTRY AND ONE DAY IN THE FUTURE THEY WILL RETURN. AND ONE DAY IN THE FUTURE THEY WILL THINK ABOUT THEIR COUNTRY.

Q: YOUR EXCELLENCY, WE UNDERSTAND FROM WHAT YOU SAY THAT MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE LEFT YOUR COUNTRY ARE IN THAT CATEGORY OF FORMER SOLDIERS OF THE OLD REGIME, PROSTITUTES AND PEOPLE LIKE THAT. MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY ARE IN THAT CATEGORY:
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A: THE MAJORITY OF THEM BELONG TO THIS CATEGORY, BUT A NUMBER OF OTHERS HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY BECAUSE OF INSTIGATION AND INCITEMENT AND SO ON.

Q: DOES THAT INCLUDE THE CHINESE,AND PEOPLE. . . ?

A: THE QUESTION OF "WHA" PEOPLE LEAVING VIETNAM FOR CHINA IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MATTER. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN THE WORD "WHA" PEOPLE -- THAT'S THE VIETNAMESE TERM FOR THE ENGLISH WORD 'CHINESE.' WHY IN SUCH A VERY SHORT TIME OF ABOUT THREE MONTHS ABOUT 133,000 "WHA" PEOPLE HAVE LEFT VIETNAM ENMASS. THEY ARE NOT THE PEOPLE WHO LEFT THE COUNTRY PERMANENTLY THAT HAVE JUST BEEN MENTIONED. THEY HAVE LEFT BY SMALL GROUPS. THE "WHA" PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LEAVING ENMASS. THERE MUST HAVE BEEN ORGANISATION AND INSTIGATION, OTHERWISE THEY COULD NOT HAVE LEFT IN SUCH A BIG NUMBER. IS IT WE WHO CAUSED THE EXPULSION OF THE CHINESE FROM VIETNAM? WE DID NOT. WE ARE FACING MANY DIFFICULTIES IN THE NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION. BY EXPELLING CHINESE FROM VIETNAM WE ONLY BRING UPON US MORE DIFFICULTIES. SO WE DON'T DO THAT.

- SO INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN OUT FROM THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN HANOI AND RUMOUR HAS BEEN SPREAD OUT FROM THE EMBASSY THAT THERE COULD BE A WAR BETWEEN VIETNAM AND CHINA AND THE CHINESE HAVE TO LEAVE VIETNAM OR THEY WILL FACE DANGER. AND THOSE WHO MUST LEAVE VIETNAM WE WILL CONSIDER AS TRAITORS TO THEIR COUNTRY. THE "WHA" PEOPLE OF VIETNAM HAVE BEEN ENJOYING THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AS VIETNAMESE CITIZENS. THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING IN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC, POLITICAL BRANCHES

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IN THE OFFICES OF ECONOMIC, POLITICAL BRANCHES IN THE
ARMY AND SO ON. THERE HAS BEEN NO DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST THE CHINESE. NOW THAT THEY HAVE LEFT VIETNAM
ENMASS, THEY HAVE CAUSED CHAOS IN PRODUCTION IN THE
WORK OF THE OFFICERS AND SO ON BECAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE
OF PERSONNEL. SO WE HAVE . . . , WE DIDN'T CAUSE SUCH
TROUBLE, IT IS THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES WHO CAUSE THIS.
THEY SAID THEY WOULD SEND SHIPS TO PICK UP THE "WHA"
PEOPLE. BUT THEY DEMAND THAT THEY BE ENTITLED TO
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DETERMINE WHO SHOULD LEAVE VIETNAM AND THEY GIVE THE
PERMISSION TO THESE PEOPLE. IT IS VERY ARROGANT OF
THEM TO DECIDE WHO COULD LEAVE VIETNAM BECAUSE THEY
HAVE COME TO AN INDEPENDENT AND SEPARATE COUNTRY.
NOW THEY HAVE BEEN PROLONGING THEIR DISCUSSIONS CONCER-
ING THE FORMALITIES FOR THE "WHA" PEOPLE, THOSE "WHA"
PEOPLE WHO WISH TO LEAVE VIETNAM. WHAT FOR? TO
CREATE A STRONG, A LARGE-SCALE GROUP PROPAGANDA
CAMPAIGN AGAINST VIETNAM. BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WANT
VIETNAM TO REVEAL ITSELF PEACEFULLY. THEY DO NOT WANT
VIETNAM TO BECOME AN INDEPENDENT SOVEREIGN AND PROS-
PEROUS COUNTRY IN SOUTH EAST ASIA.

Q: COULD WE TURN YOUR ATTENTION TO YOUR FOREIGN RELATIONS

- FOR A MOMENT, WITH CAMBODIA. WE HEAR RECENTLY OF
- THAILAND AND CAMBODIA REACHING CLOSER RELATIONS. WHAT
- PROSPECTS DO YOU THINK THERE ARE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS
- WITH CAMBODIA AND HOW COULD IT COME ABOUT?

A: AS VIETNAM COPED WITH THE RELATIONS OF CAMBODIA, THE

- CAMBODIANS THEMSELVES WOULD NOT DARE OPPOSE VIETNAM.
- THERE ARE PEOPLE BEHIND THE CAMBODIANS AND BECAUSE OF
- THIS THE CAMBODIANS HAVE CAUSED THE BORDER WAR WITH
- VIETNAM. VIETNAM DOES NOT WANT TO WAGE A WAR AGAINST
- THOSE FRIENDS OF VIETNAM WHO STOOD TOGETHER WITH THE
- VIETNAMESE DURING THE FIGHT FOR THE ...LIBERATION OF
- SOLUTION WITH THE CHINESE. THE SAME WITH THE

- CAMBODIANS. NOW IT DEPENDS ON THEM; IT IS UP TO THEM.
- WE WANT PEACE AND TRANQUILITY TO COVER OUR COUNTRY. WE
- HAVE TO FIGHT. WE FOUGHT DURING MANY YEARS AND WE
- UNDERSTAND, WE KNOW THE COST OF WAR. AND WE UNDERSTAND
- THE VALUE OF PEACE.

Q: COULD MR PHAN HIEN CLARIFY THE STATEMENT HE MADE IN
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- TOKYO FOLLOWING THE PARIS TALKS IN WHICH WE UNDERSTOOD
- HIM TO SAY THAT FULL RELATIONS COULD BE RESUMED WITH
- THE UNITED STATES REGARDLESS OF THE QUESTION OF AID.
- WOULD YOU CLARIFY THAT STATEMENT FOR US YOUR EXCELLENCY?

A: IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES WE STAND FOR

- RIGHT AFTER THE VICTORY WE ACHIEVED IN 1975 WE PROPOSED
- THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.
- THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THE
- UNITED STATES IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES,
- AND ALSO IN THE INTEREST OF THIS REGION. BECAUSE IT IS
- SO IMPORTANT WE HAVE TOLD THE AMERICANS THAT IF THE TWO
- SIDES UNDERSTAND SUCH IMPORTANCE AND SUCH AN INTEREST
- IN THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WE SHOULD DO SO. THE
- TWO SIDES MUST DO SO IMMEDIATELY.
- THAT IS WHY I SAID THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO MEET THE
- AMERICANS AT ANY PLACE AND AT ANY TIME TO DISCUSS THIS
- MATTER. WE SAY THAT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE THIS
- QUESTION CAN BE SOLVED. AND IF NO ONE RAISES THE PRE-
- CONDITION AND THE TWO SIDES HAVE GOOD WILL THE PROBLEM
- CAN BE SOLVED. IF NO ONE IMPOSES ITS OPINION, ITS
- OPINION, ON THE OTHER SIDE, AND EACH SIDE HAS TO HAVE
- THE SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING AND MUTUAL CONCESSION. ON
- SUCH, BY SO DOING, WE CAN GET OUT OF THE DEADLOCK. IF
- EACH SIDE MAINTAINS ITS OWN POSITION THE QUESTION CANN-
- OT BE SOLVED.

Q: I WONDER IF I COULD ASK YOU IF YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT

- SAW ANY VALUE IN HAVING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
- THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA, SIMILAR TO THE ONE THAT WAS
- HELD IN GENEVA AFTER THE EARLIER WAR OF THE FRENCH IN
- INDOCHINA. DO YOU THINK IT IS BEST SOLVED BY
- BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN YOUR COUNTRY AND OTHER

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- COUNTRIES?

A: NOW WE HAVE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES. IF
- THERE IS ANY DIFFERENCE WE WANT TO SIT, TALK WITH THAT
- COUNTRY AND SOLVE THE DIFFERENCES. THE SITUATION NOW IS
- RATHER DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE. BUT WE WELCOME ALL
- COUNTRIES WHO STAND FOR, AND WHO SUPPORT THIS WHOLE
- NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THOSE DIFFERENCES.

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Q: IN VIEW OF THE DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN
- VIETNAM AND CHINA HAVE YOU COME TO ENLIST NEW ZEALAND'S
- SUPPORT FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT?

A: WE WELCOME ALL COUNTRIES AND ALL PEOPLE WHO WILL
- SUPPORT OUR JUST CAUSE. WE WILL MEET THE NEW ZEALAND
- GOVERNMENT AND PRESENT OUR POSITIONS AND IT IS UP TO
- THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE ITS ATTITUDE.

Q: THERE IS JUST ONE POINT, IF THERE IS ANY OPPORTUNITY
- OF SPEAKING AT THE END OF YOUR TALKS WITH NEW ZEALAND
- MINISTERS, I AM SURE WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF, I
- REALISE THAT YOU HAVE A BRIEF, FULL PROGRAMME, BUT I
- DON'T THINK THERE IS A PRESS CONFERENCE. IF ONE COULD
- BE PUT AT THE END OF THE TALKS.

A: WE WILL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS WITH OUR FRIENDS IN THE
- FOREIGN MINISTRY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
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